foam characteristics to allow the user to select the type most suitable for his particular use at a particular time. The package may be a box, sack, or the like, or, as in the illustrated case, a thermoplastic polymer film envelope or bag **44** having its open end closed by a band **45** or other suitable means, e.g., a heat seal, clip, etc. The handle and ferrule unit **6** and the drip collector **36**, supra, are also in the package to supply the complete unit.

In FIG. 11, there is shown a foam polyurethane applicator **46** formed by thin, superposed layers **47** of foam polyurethane. The layers are vulcanized or otherwise attached together, e.g., by staples, at the base portion **48**. The remainder of the layers are unattached and can flex somewhat to provide a plurality of paint spreader edges **49** when the applicator is brushed over a surface **50**.

In FIG. 12, the foam polyurethane applicator **1'** is of similar structure and shape to applicator **1**. It has, however, a plurality of slits **51** cut from the tapered edge toward the base **53** to provide a plurality of narrow, side-by-side strips **52**. This applicator is especially useful in applying paint or other coating to uneven surfaces.

The principal portion of the foregoing specification pertains to foam polyurethane applicators, which constitute the preferred cellular material. The invention also embraces, however, other cellular, foam polymers, e.g., foam rubber and foam synthetic rubber, having an open cell structure providing some absorbency of the coating materials.

It is thought that the invention and its numerous attendant advantages will be fully understood from the foregoing description, and it is obvious that numerous changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the several parts without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention, or sacrificing any of its attendant advantages, the forms herein disclosed being preferred embodiments for the purpose of illustrating the invention.

The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

1. A coating applicator comprising a foam polymer applicator body with a pair of opposite faces tapering from a base portion to a substantially sharp edge, wall means defining two, opposing, separable, half-sections of a hollow handle, each with a half section of a hollow ferrule provided at one end of said hollow handle sections, the two ferrule sections defining therebetween a cavity in which said base portion is tightly, though removably, held, a plurality of plates mounted in said cavity at spaced intervals on the inner side of said ferrule sections, said plates having a plurality of tapered projections formed on one side thereof, said projections being arranged in parallel rows on said side, said projections all sloping, relative to the respective plates, in a direction inwardly and rearwardly into said cavity and penetrating the foam polymer walls of said base portion to hold it in said cavity, and means releasably holding said handle and ferrule sections together with said base portion tightly held therein.

2. A coating applicator comprising a foam polymer applicator body having a base portion on one end thereof and an applicator portion on the other end thereof, molded plastic wall means defining two, opposing, separable, half sections of a hollow handle, each with a half section of a hollow ferrule provided at one end of said hollow handle sections, the two ferrule sections defining therebetween a cavity in which said base portion is tightly, though removably, held, sharp projection means on the inside walls of said ferrule penetrating said base portion to hold it in said cavity, a drip collector comprising an endless inner wall connected by a bottom wall with an endless outer wall, the inner wall of said drip collector pressing tightly against the outer walls of said ferrule sections to hold the latter together, and said inner, bottom and outer walls forming a perimetric drip collection chamber open on one side thereof, the open side of which faces the direction in which said applicator body extends from said ferrule.

3. An applicator as claimed in claim **1** wherein said rows of projections are spaced close enough so that the tips of the projections in one ro wextend above the sides of the projections in an adjacent row, the axes of said projections forming an angle relative to said plates in the range of 30° to 80°.

4. An applicator as claimed in claim **1** wherein projections occur on said plates in numbers in the range of 200 to 500 projections per square inch.

5. A coating applicator comprising a foam polymer applicator body having a base portion and an applicator portion, wall means defining two opposing, separable, half-sections of a hollow handle, each with a half-section of a hollow ferrule provided at one end of said hollow handle sections, the two ferrule sections defining therebetween a cavity in which said base portion is tightly, though removably, held, a plurality of plates mounted in said cavity at spaced intervals on the inner side of said ferrule sections, said plates having a plurality of tapered projections formed on one side thereof, said projections being arranged in parallel rows on said side, said projections all sloping, relative to the respective plates, in a direction inwardly and rearwardly into said cavity and penetrating the foam polymer walls of said base portion to hold it in said cavity, and means releasably holding said handle and ferrule sections together with said base portion tightly held therein.

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DANIEL BLUM, *Primary Examiner.*

CHARLES A. WILLMUTH, *Examiner.*